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A Change in Used Oil Guidance— Removing Residual Oil Does Not Create “Used Oil”

Mechanics used to consider the black liquid they drained from engines a nuisance, to be disposed of as quickly as possible. Today this same used oil is recognized as an important commodity that can be re-refined, or burned for energy recovery by some industries. Recycling is Washington's second highest goal for waste management (reduction is the first). To support this goal, Ecology is changing its used oil guidance to keep used oil as clean as possible for these end purposes, and to continue to encourage recycling of degreasing solvents. Since most businesses are already segregating solvent and used oil as a regular procedure, this change recognizes a common practice among solvent users. It also brings Ecology's guidance in line with that from EPA.

Since the adoption of the federal Used Oil Management Standards in 2000, Ecology's position has been that wastes that contain or are otherwise contaminated with used oil could be burned for energy recovery under these standards. Under that interpretation, the waste from a high-flash solvent

parts washer used to clean engine parts could be managed as used oil, since it had become contaminated with used oil in the cleaning process. But that interpretation was in conflict with EPA's position and that of other states.

The federal regulation [40 CFR Part 279.10(c) (1)] does not consider **residual oil** on parts as “used oil.” If an engine part has been properly drained of free-flowing oil, the solvent or parts washing will only be removing a residue from the part. The same applies to rags used to clean engine parts. In both cases, the oily film on the engine part is not used oil for the purposes of the Used Oil Management Standards. The free-flowing oil drained from parts is used oil.

After re-examining the issue and discussing it further with EPA Region 10 staff, Ecology has revised its position. Wastes generated from high-flash solvent parts washers, caustic dip tanks, etc. that become contaminated with an oil residue during cleaning of engine parts **cannot** be managed as used oil, even if burned for energy recovery.

The long-term waste management goal for used oil is to keep lubricants such as used oil within a distinct lubricant cycle. A first step toward this is source separation; the “purer” a waste stream can be kept, the easier it is to recycle or reuse it. The easier it is to

recycle or reuse a waste, the more likely it is to be considered and treated as a valuable commodity rather than as something you just “get rid of.”

If you have questions regarding this change in interpretation of the oil standards, please contact Ty Thomas at (360) 407-6758. Another source of information is the soon-to-be available Ecology publication “Management of Materials Containing or Contaminated with Used Oil” (WDOE#02-04-031).

Wastes generated from processes that remove residual oil (such as in high-flash solvent part washers and caustic dip tanks) or that are contaminated with residual oil (such as cleaning rags) may no longer be managed as used oil. The wastes are to be managed as solid wastes, subject to the designation process to determine if the wastes should be managed as dangerous wastes.

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2003 Dangerous Waste Workshops

Each year, Ecology's Hazardous Waste & Toxics Reduction Program provides low-cost Dangerous Waste Management Workshops. The workshops discuss proper waste management and how to comply with the *Dangerous Waste Regulations*.

The morning will begin with standard information essential to all generators, while the afternoon will cover more in-depth issues. The training is a mix of presentations, group exercises, discussions, and question and answer sessions. It's a good way to have your questions answered in a casual, friendly atmosphere, and learn:

- ✓ Waste reduction methods that can increase profits
- ✓ Ways to avoid common compliance violations
- ✓ How to benefit from lowering your generator status
- ✓ The "designation" process for identifying a waste's hazards
- ✓ Principles of proper dangerous waste management
- ✓ The proper way to complete the Annual Report
- ✓ What to expect if there is a compliance inspection at your facility

2003 Workshop Schedule

Date	City
January 14	Mt. Vernon
January 16	Silverdale
January 22	Kelso
January 24	Olympia
January 28	Everett
January 30	Seattle
January 31	Seattle
February 4	Spokane
February 6	Yakima

Space is limited, so register now. The full-day training costs \$50 which includes morning and afternoon refreshments, lunch, workbook and a certificate of participation. Call Tonya Wolfe at (360) 407-6023 to reserve your space. Or you can register online at: <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/forms/dwmw/index.htm>

We must receive payment by January 10, 2003!

Waste Services Study Reveals Problems and Options

In the last decade several waste management companies have shut down and left wastes behind for the government (taxpayers), property owners, or former customers to clean up. These include:

- CleanCare, Tacoma. Abandoned in 1999. Cleanup costs to date – \$4.3 million.
- Cameron Yakima, Yakima. Bankrupt in 1990. Cleanup costs to date – \$4.5 million.
- Amour Fiber Core, Sultan. Abandoned in 2001. Cleanup costs to date – \$250,000.

There is a gap between the financial assurance that state and federal regulations require of waste management companies and what it actually costs to shut down a site properly. In 2001, Ecology asked the Legislature to fund a study to identify solutions to these problems. Ecology has recently completed that study and will present options for the 2003 Legislature to consider.

Ecology worked with the hazardous waste management industry, hazardous waste recyclers, used oil processors, large and small business organizations, local government agencies, and environmental groups to complete the study. The work revealed five core problems:

1. Major waste streams and activities at waste management facilities are not subject to financial responsibility requirements.
2. Regulations and mechanisms addressing financial responsibility for treatment, storage and disposal facilities are inadequate and/or out-of-date.
3. There is limited regulatory ability to address potential environmental threats at recycling facilities and used oil processors.
4. Potential customers and interested citizens have difficulty obtaining information about facility permits, compliance, enforcement, closure, and cleanup.
5. Resource levels are inadequate for current demands on Ecology permitting and compliance programs.

Although all the interested parties agree that there are serious problems with hazardous waste management facilities, there is no agreement on what specific priorities should be followed or what services Ecology should provide to address the problems identified. Ecology identified three possible approaches:

1. The first, and speediest option, would authorize Ecology to write a rule defining what services are needed to address the problems. The agency would consult with interested parties in writing the rule. Ecology could also charge fees to pay for the package of services. Direct action to resolve the problems could start by 2005.
2. The second option is to direct Ecology to continue working with interested parties until all agree on services and funding *before* writing a rule. Direct action to solve problems could not happen until after 2006.
3. The third option is to direct Ecology to start writing a rule under the existing authority of the Hazardous Waste Management Act to resolve immediate problems with financial assurance and address environmental threats at recyclers and used oil processors, with no clear funding sources identified. This may provide a legal basis for addressing some significant problems, but without new funding sources, practical implementation would probably not happen.

Of the approaches identified, Ecology believes the first option provides the means to speedily address the serious problems identified, and provides the most protection for the businesses that have paid for, and should expect, proper waste management.

For more information on the study and the options, contact Jim Sachet, (360) 407-6126.

2002 Governor's Award for Pollution Prevention and Sustainable Practices Winners

Governor Locke honored five Washington businesses and one government agency September 18 with the 2002 Governor's Award for Pollution Prevention and Sustainable Practices. The award recognized their use of innovative ways to offer their products and services while reducing waste and conserving vital resources such as energy and water. The winners are:

- ◆ **Batdorf and Bronson Coffee Roasters** – Olympia, for commitment to renewable and sustainable energy production and agriculture.
- ◆ **Columbia River Carbonates** – Woodland, for developing an innovative system that re-uses production-process water and eliminates wastewater discharges.
- ◆ **Madison Carnolia Cleaners** – Seattle, for reducing the use of perchloro-ethylene, a potential carcinogen, and conserving energy.

- ◆ **Watson Furniture Group** – Poulsbo, for reducing the use of toxic substances, using recycled and reclaimed materials, and protecting water quality at its facility.

- ◆ **The Wenatchee World** newspaper, for redesigning products and its production facility to conserve resources and energy and to reduce the use of toxic substances.

- ◆ **City of Seattle**, for a citywide commitment to sustainability in business practices and reducing the use of toxic substances.

The winners demonstrated excellence through their commitment to environmental quality and their willingness to share their knowledge of pollution prevention and sustainable practices. Sustainable practices allow a business to meet its resource needs successfully, without jeopardizing the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

Ecology will begin accepting applications for the next round of Governor's Awards in April 2003. For more information, contact Mariann Cook Andrews at (360) 407-6740. Or visit the Governor's Award Web site at: http://www.ecy.wa.gov/sustainability/GovAward_awards.htm

What Would Your Future Look Like?

The last issue of Shoptalk highlighted the Beyond Waste project – a coordinated effort by Ecology to update the state hazardous and solid waste management plans.

An electronic survey will be sent in January 2003 to key hazardous waste generators and other interested parties to get their input on how to achieve a Beyond Waste future. If you are interested in participating, please e-mail Chris Chapman at: ccha461@ecy.wa.gov

Close Up: Madison Carnolia Cleaners 2002 Governor's Award Winner

Madison Carnolia Cleaners provides wet and dry-cleaning services in the Magnolia area of Seattle. The company was the first drycleaner in Washington State to receive the highest EnviroStars rating of five stars.

Dry cleaners commonly use perchloroethylene, a potential carcinogen, in their cleaning process. Improper disposal of this solvent has contaminated groundwater in many areas of Washington. Madison Carnolia Cleaners added a wet cleaning process, invested in closed-loop cleaning equipment, and committed to a maintenance and monitoring regimen to prevent releases. This reduced their use of "perc" from 1,300 gallons per year to less than 95 gallons per year, saving \$12,050 per year in solvent costs. Most importantly, this reduced the employees' exposure to the chemicals. The company filters its wastewater to recover and recycle what solvent it does use. This ensures the wastewater is non-polluting and significantly reduces the cost for disposal.

The company retrofitted its lighting and realized a savings of 56 percent in energy use and \$1,218 per year in electricity costs. They recycle cardboard, hangers, and some plastics, donate unclaimed clothing to charity, and provide durable, reusable "express bags" for customers. The company hires employees from the local area to encourage walking, biking, and carpooling to work. They actively participate in promoting environmentally-responsible ethics within the dry-cleaning industry and to their customers.



Governor Gary Locke presents the award to Dick Turner of Madison Carnolia Cleaners at the awards ceremony, September 18, 2002.

Water Quality Reissues Industrial Stormwater Permit

Q What is happening with industrial stormwater permitting? I heard there had been an appeal of the new general permit.

A Ecology's Water Quality Program issued a new Industrial Stormwater General Permit, effective September 20, 2002. If a facility is already covered by the original stormwater permit, then the coverage is automatically transferred to the new permit.

On September 20, Snohomish County, a coalition of environmental groups, and The Boeing Company appealed the general permit. Copies of the appeals filed are available from Ecology's web site at <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/stormwater/>. At this time, there is no other information regarding the impacts or outcome of the appeal. Ecology will post new information regarding the appeal as it becomes available.

Q What will the new Industrial Stormwater General Permit require? Will there be training on this?

A In addition to best management practices and a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP), which were elements of the original permit, the

new permit will require quarterly stormwater monitoring (i.e., sampling, analysis and reporting), to measure the effectiveness of the SWPPP. (The SWPPP is not the same as the Pollution Prevention Plan to reduce toxics in raw materials and wastes required under Chapter 173-307 WAC.)

Ecology will provide guidance and workshops designed to answer questions regarding the sampling requirements, your monitoring plan, and to offer as much assistance as possible.

Q I didn't apply for the permit before because I'm classified as light industry. Will that change?

A Facilities classified as "light industry" who previously weren't required to apply for the permit must now apply either for a "No Exposure" certificate or for the permit. The "No Exposure" application is due by December 20, 2002. To find out whether or not and how the new permit applies to you, as well as what your next steps should be, call or e-mail Joyce Smith at Ecology (360) 407-6858 or josm461@ecy.wa.gov

Department of Ecology

Remember, your business is liable for all hazardous wastes generated. If you are uncertain about your responsibilities as a hazardous waste generator, call your nearest Ecology office and ask for a hazardous waste specialist. For information on reducing or recycling hazardous waste, ask for the toxics reduction staff, also at the following numbers:

Bellevue: (425) 649-7000

Lacey: (360) 407-6300

Yakima: (509) 575-2490

Spokane: (509) 456-2926

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Shoptalk

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